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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with LCdr. J. Madden relative to
 ONI Contract with American Geographical Society

Background:

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1. [] had given me a brochure from the American Geographical Society which stated that it was issuing a series of geographical handbooks on countries of the world, the one at point being Finland. It was further stated that this project was supported by the Office of Naval Research, and that the handbooks would sell for approximately \$9.00 each. The outline of these handbooks indicated close similarity with that of the NIS in the sense of covering substantially the same topics except for the Armed Forces. There was also included an appendix, ^{including} and a list of geographic names. Upon receiving this information I called Capt. Styles to inform him of the project and my views that in general it seemed to be parallel to the NIS. I requested that he look into the matter and inform me what the basis for ONI's contract in this field might be.

Discussion with LCdr. Madden;

2. LCdr. Madden indicated in a discussion that he had looked into the matter with Dr. Louis Quarm and others in ONR. From his telephone conversation with these individuals he learned that the project was initiated by the Office of Naval Research to support broad basic research in the geographic fields without any particular objective in mind other than this broad one.

3. I pointed out to LCdr. Madden my concern with such types of governmental supported research, in particular where it duplicated in large measure that already undertaken by existing programs. It appeared to me that once these publications were out in any numbers, because of their readability (as noted in the brochure), they might well be used by a large number of government people as a quick reference instead of referring to the NIS.

Country Studies - AGS and NIS Program - Navy

Army and ONI review(s)
 completed.

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These latter, because of their bulk or restrained language, are not so easy to read and might not appeal to the reader seeking a general impression of an area. The real danger, however, lies in the existence of two parallel programs, one officially directed and the other generated from basic research which may well have different statistics and factual basis. Users would then be in a dilemma over which data to use.

4. Somewhat in rebuttal LCdr. Madden said that ONR pointed out the existence of another program supported by the Office of the Chief, Psychological Warfare, U.S. Army, with the Human Relations Area Files of New Haven. In substance I replied that that matter was currently under investigation and it appeared that it would not satisfy the requirement as well as would the NIS, and consequently the contract ^{may} not be renewed at the end of the year. LCdr. Madden indicated he would convey my thoughts to Capt. Styles and suggested that it would be well to have the whole matter aired at an NIS Committee meeting.



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